



**Price of a barrel
of petroleum
today:**
US\$ 43.61

**INSIDE TODAY
WORLD NEWS**

INSANE LI

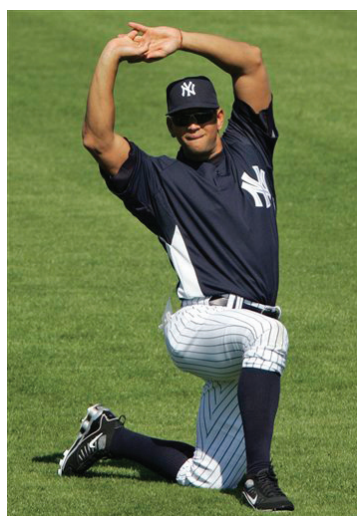


Vince Li, accused of stabbing, beheading and cannibalizing another man on a Greyhound bus in Canada, is brought to a Portage La Prairie, Canada, court on Aug. 5, 2008.

See **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

SPORTS NEWS

WHAT IS HIP?



In this Feb. 18, 2009 file photo, New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez stretches during spring training baseball in Tampa, Fla.

See **Sports Today**

Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa

Launches 50-years of hospitality celebration



PALM BEACH – The Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa will be marking its 50th anniversary this summer. The resort is currently gearing up for the celebration which will include a formal cocktail party, on July 17th, a coffee-table book publications, a fund raising gala charity event, retro culinary experiences and the introduction of a special bulletin board on the resort website where colleagues and guests may post their pictures and anecdotes, from the past five decades. (<http://radisson-aruba.travelscreamforum.com/forumHome.aspx>)

The Aruba's Tourism Authority and the Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association will also be involved in the celebration since the Radisson anniversary also coincides with the commemoration of 50 year of hospitality on the island.

A not-so-brief lesson in history, thank you: www.historiadiaruba.aw for research information:

Aruba's first tourist hotel was the Coral Strand on the outskirts of Oranjestad, on the road to the airport. It opened in December 1943 and still operates today as the quaint and friendly Talk of the Town Hotel.

The second tourist hotel was Hotel Scala which opened in downtown Oranjestad, in March 1949. As a result of these initial efforts to promote the island as a vacation destination and encourage the creation of lodging facilities, Aruba's tourism registered a record number of 980 visitors in 1950.

In 1953, the Aruba Tourism Bureau became a government agency and embarked on its life-long mission to create demand for the island. Aruba counted at that time just 100 hotel beds, 42 at the Coral Strand, 22 at Scala and 36 in the recently opened Hotel Marchena.

The importance of the development of beachfront resorts was recognized in the early 50s, inspired by the success of Miami Beach.

In 1953, an official contest was held for the best design of a tourist hotel on pristine, magnificent Palm Beach, here. The winning plan for the "Basiroeti" was to be financed by the government, yet in encountered many hurdles and took until December 1954 to actually get off the ground. (The Basi Ruti Hotel was finally



finished in February 1957 as a low rise cluster of bungalows sprawled over the sugar sand of virgin Palm Beach, where the Playa Linda Beach Resort stands today.

In 1965, Dutch Princess Beatrix stayed at Basi Ruti during her visit to the island.)

Much was accomplished in 1954. The year marked the debut of the first mega promotional campaign for the island in the USA. Flyers were distributed among New York travel agencies and left at the KLM, Royal Dutch Airline ticket offices.

Continued on Page 4



SALE



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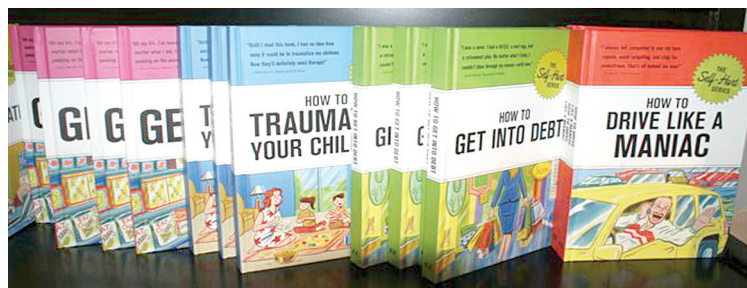
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On Palm Beach across from the Radisson Resort

The New Coconut Trading Company opens At the Village



PALM BEACH – A new Coconut Trading Company is now open at the Village on Palm Beach, across from the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa. The much-loved gift store first opened at the Marriott Ocean Club and became an instant hit among locals and visitors. Store owner, Boston-born, long time resident of Aruba Jodi Tobman Hagedoorn just expanded the brand's reach by opening a new boutique at the Village on Palm Beach, with ample parking and late evening shopping hours.



The new Coconut Trading Company is beautifully decorated with elegant black & white tiles and hand painted black & white furniture. The effect is very striking as it provides a great backdrop to gifts galore.



We saw ornate picture frames, elegant serving sets, very useful cheese picks and spreaders, irresistible ice buckets, bejeweled geckos, tall candle sticks, whimsical Christmas ornaments, striking accent lamps, scented candles, and specialized gifts for kids and women, including an empowering tool set, in hot pink, for the motivated do-it-yourself woman in your life. Our favorite was a series of "self-hurt" books, How to Drive Like a Maniac, How to Traumatize Your Kids, How to Procrastinate, though we can write that book ourselves. Best pick a complete manual for the hypochondriac, of Things that Might Kill You . . . open daily from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Village on Palm Beach. ☐

Don't miss our Plentiful Paella!

A dinner under the Caribbean sky!

Las Ramblas

Tapas & Charcoal Grill

The menu features authentic spanish tapas and entrees such as delicious Seafood Paella, USDA Beef Tenderloin & New Zealand Lamb Chops from the charcoal grill.

Open from 6.00pm - 10.30pm. Closed on Sundays and Wednesdays.
Reservation recommended
For reservation call 520-1100 ext. 6154

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PASEO HERENCIA MALL ARUBA TEL: 5868443



World Baseball Classic 2009

Fri., Mar. 6 Chinese Taipei vs. Korea 6:30pm
Fri., Mar. 6 Game 2 Loser vs. China 12:30pm



Coors Light 12oz. for \$3

Since last Monday she is the co-anchor of the most watched news-broadcast in Aruba

Francie Croes is the new face of ATV

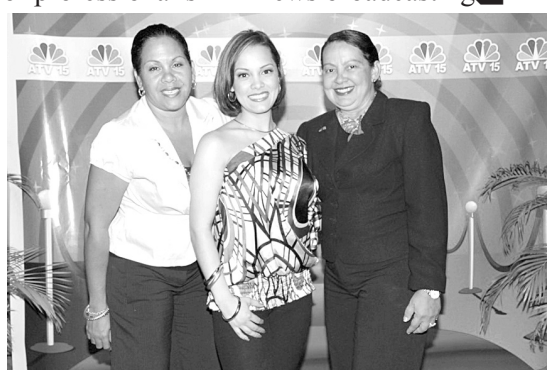


ORANJESTAD - During a special news segment, last Monday ATV introduced their new co-anchor; Ms. Francie Croes who now presents the news side by side with lead news anchor Ronny Maduro. This dynamic duo with support of the ATV "Team 15" will continue to present the news to the Aruban community every evening.

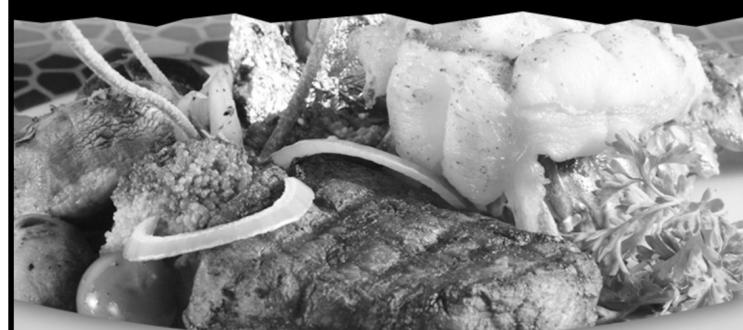
At the end of the news past Monday, the director of ATV, Mr. Tom Pietersz gave a very significant ATV pin to Ms. Francie Croes to welcome her to the company.

After the official ceremony, ATV followed with an informal ceremony, where the colleagues of Ms. Croes got a chance to meet and greet the

new face of the news-station. ATV would like to welcome Francie Croes to the fold, and they are certain that she will take ATV to the next level of professionalism in news broadcasting.



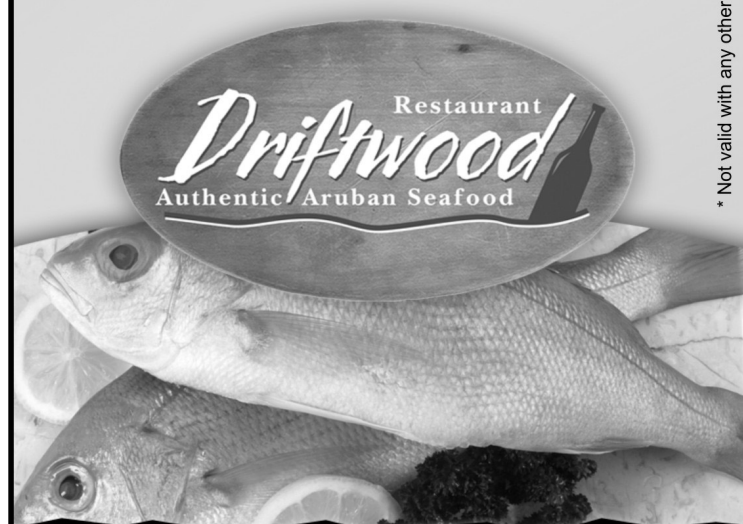
FRIDAYS SPECIAL!



☺ **KIDS EAT FREE!** ∞
(up to 10 years old)

...FRESH FISH CAUGHT DAILY BY THE OWNER HIMSELF.

A long tradition of serving the finest
Seafood & Steaks
for over 20 years!



Open daily from 5:00pm - 10:30pm (closed on Tuesdays)
For reservations call: 583-2515 - Klipstraat 12, Downtown.
www.driftwoodaruba.com

* Not valid with any other promotion.



NOTICE:

Casino chips with old Aruba Marriott Sail Boat Logo can be cashed out at the Casino Cage until July 1, 2009.

No chip exchange is possible after July 1, 2009

Launches 50-years of hospitality celebration



Continued from Front Page

The ambitious campaign worked, and the sudden influx of visitors to the island delivered a new set of problems, as a scarcity of taxi cabs was reported and complaints regarding the hotel rates and airline fares were registered, as they were considered too high!

Aruba also arrived on the cruise ship scene around that time, when in February of 1955 "Tradewinds" tied up in the Oranjestad harbor. Local girls in festive frocks welcomed day-trippers coming off the ship and guided them through the streets of Oranjestad. The entire island came out to glare at the visitors and the ensuing gridlock caused a major

traffic jam downtown. Ships operated by the Grace Line later became frequent visitors of the port.

In 1956, the motivated island government approved plans for the building of a luxury tourist hotel on Palm Beach, which was to be called the Aruba Caribbean Hotel. Two local visionaries Juan Enrique Iraisquin – the man who inspired the naming of our boulevard and Oscar Henriquez – who is still with us enjoying frequent travel and his flower garden - wrote a lengthy report filled with recommendations regarding the construction of this hotel. They gathered information and inspiration, as they traveled to Miami and Puerto

Rico, and decided on an appropriate model for Aruba's budding tourism trade. They both concluded that Aruba's beaches are the best, and that the island could aspire higher, attracting 'better' clients seeking luxury, not economy.

Juancho Iraisquin, who was a politician from the ruling PPA party, is to this day regarded the mastermind behind Aruba's tourism boom. As a result of his relentless push, a giant desalinization plant was built marking the availability of water, pitifully scarce until then. The construction of the road from Oranjestad to Palm Beach was also initialized making commute possible. In 1958, Aruba's visitors traveled on a super-highway running from the airport to the end of the beach with traffic signs and secondary roads leading to tourist attractions such as the Casibari Rock Formation and the now crumbled Natural Bridge. Oranjestad's main street was cleaned up, reportedly, two bars of ill-repute were ordered to set up

shop elsewhere. During the Christmas season of 1958, all rooms on the island were occupied. Aruba was well on its way to becoming a brand, even before branding was invented

In their great wisdom, Iraisquin and Henriquez insisted on a celebrity architect to design their new dream resort, and the designs for the building by award-winning, iconic American architect Morris Lapidus were approved. Lapidus was the creator of curvy, flamboyant Neo-baroque modern hotels, the genius who built the Fontainebleau Hotel and famed Eden Rock on Miami Beach. Legends have him scouring the beach here and studying the direction of the wind, until he was satisfied that he found just the perfect spot, he personally surveyed the grounds and initiated the clearing of what is today the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa.

In honor of the upcoming project Aruba's first finance and management corporation was registered, Aruven, with two major shareholders, the Aruban and Venezuelan governments. In the summer of 1959 the official grand opening of the Aruba Caribbean Hotel took place – yes, 50 years ago - it was the first luxury resort of Aruba, boasting 120 rooms. The hotel provided 160 jobs, 120 of which were locals. The balance of the people working for the Carib were American managers, hired to run the glitzy, swanky casino.

In the 50s in general the Caribbean tickled the imagination of the American rich and famous. There was a growing interest in the Caribbean lifestyle and in 1957 a government report stated that the islands became America's favorite playground. The

sudden boost of popularity was mostly due to the hype surrounding calypso music and the myth created around sensational singer Harry Belafonte.

The chic American vacationers coming to the Carib to frolic in the waves – water skiing was also BIG - acquired a glowing tan, went out to the Klompen (famed Dutch clogs) Supper Club to listen to popular singers and entertainers, including Liberace, and check out each other over wedge salads and Beef Wellingtons. During the day they enjoyed some duty-free shopping, and the drinking of rum. Harry Belafonte, Elizabeth Taylor and Eddie Fischer were some of the regulars at the 'Grand Dame,' as the Aruba Caribbean Hotel, now the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa came to be called.

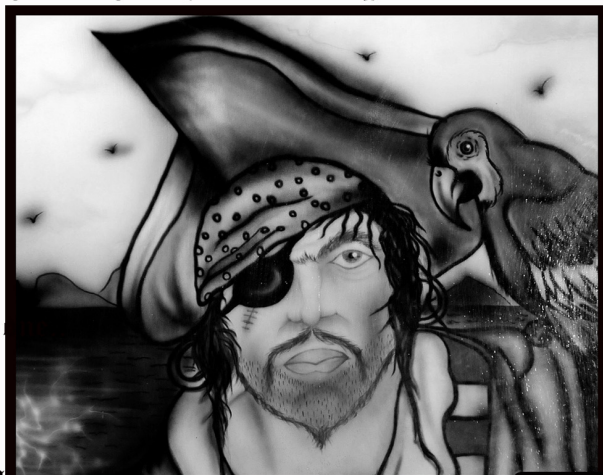
Aruba's promotion as a tourism destination later invaded movie-theaters as a 1958 promotional film produced by KLM firmly established the island as a major player in the arena, a role which it has played for the past 50 years. Naturally, none of this constant reinvention and tweaking, and adjustment would have been possible without the ingenious, sweet, hospitable, well-educate and good natured people of this island. Taking the industry in just 50 years from 100 to 8000 rooms, while maintaining a great tourist product and a good quality of life for locals took innate intelligence and the sure-footed persistence of people who know where they came from – from all over, and know where they are going to – into a bright, promising albeit at times bumpy future. Pictured here how it all started, the original design, and the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa celebration logo.

Buccaneer Restaurant

Aruba's Legendary Buccaneer Restaurant, serving the freshest fish and seafood from the sea to pour to your plate including steaks, duck, poultry and pasta dishes.

Whether you come with the whole family, bring a group of friends, or enjoy for a romantic dinner for two, Buccaneer has the high quality service and fresh, flavorful international dishes that will make your dining experience a memorable reservations email us at info@buccaneeraruba.com or call 586-6172

Monday - Saturday 5:30-10 pm



Ahoy Matey bring this ad in for a free glass of house wine



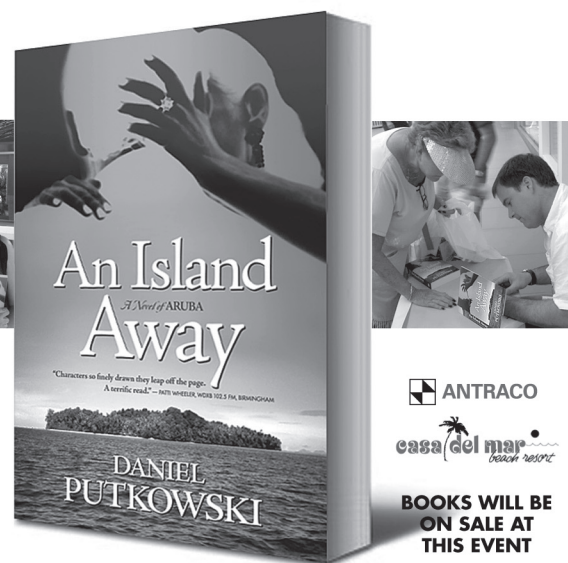
Discover Aruba's #1 BESTSELLING NOVEL



FRI MARCH 6 BOOK SIGNING CASA DEL MAR BEACH RESORT 9AM-12PM / 1:30-3PM

JE Irausquin Blvd 51, Oranjestad (Low Rise Hotel Area). Books will be on sale at **ANTRACO BAZAAR** in the lobby.

DANIELPUTKOWSKI.COM • AN ISLAND AWAY IS AVAILABLE AT MOST HOTEL GIFT SHOPS OR BUY ONLINE AT **bnr** **amazon.com**



ANTRACO

casa del mar
beach resort

**BOOKS WILL BE
ON SALE AT
THIS EVENT**

Casa Tua staffers learn about wines from Arion Wine Company's expert



PALM BEACH - 'How does one open a bottle of wine in the correct way; how does one hold one's glass, why do people smell the corks of wine bottles,' all of the above are much-asked questions in the restaurant business. And very important to know the answers for waiters, who are supposed to know all there is to know about wine etiquette. Well, the waiting staff at Casa Tua Restaurant at Arawak Garden

is now up to par, wine-wise. They got a very illuminating and lucid explanation during a short seminar, taught by Aruba's viticulturist Govert van der Hout of the Arion Wine Company. Present were also Casa Tua's manager Yannick Lessire and marketing manager Isabella Rugebrecht. After corked wines, the cork growing process and the opening of bottles were discussed, it was time for

the Casa Tua people to start tasting. Van der Hout started off with a very nice Kim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough - New Zealand. This was followed by a Wente Vineyards Morning Fog Chardonnay from the Livermore Valley in California, a true winner. The Wente Vineyards Riverbank Riesling from Monterey - California was the last white wine that was tasted. Descriptions like peach, oak, green apples and more poetic words flowed from the staffers' mouths as they tried to determine the various taste and smell sensations that they



encountered. Van der Hout finished his short afternoon seminar with an Italian Chianti: a Castellain from Tusany and a

Goiya Shiraz-Pinotage from Olifantsriver, South Africa. Photos show that drinking wine can be a fun as well as an enlightening experience. □

Community Announcement

The Jewish Community of Aruba will be celebrating Purim on Monday, March 9, at 7:30 P.M., with the reading of Megillat Esther.

Please come ready to enjoy a great party and delicious Purim goodies!

Visitors to Aruba are cordially invited to attend. Beth Israel Aruba is located on Adriaan Lacle Blvd. 2, Oranjestad.

For more information please call 582 3272 □

INVENTORY MEGA SALE

Sold=Sold OPEN :ONLY 9am-1pm

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40 Percent Discount on all chairs

30% on Furniture and Decorations

Tanki Leendert 158- G Road 4A ph. 741-5640

20 Showrooms with furniture and decorations +

Feria Patriotico

5, 6, 7 & 8th of March 2009

Aruba Entertainment Center

Folkloric Song Festival and Fair

Patriotic products

T-shirt, Souvenirs, bandanas

Festive ambience

Over 50 vendors

Local cuisine and snacks

Family entertainment & fun

Arts & Crafts

Kids Corner

Dance performances

Traditional "caha di orgel"

Folkloric dance show

Well assorted bar

Popular musical bands:

Song Festival

Thursday and Friday 5pm to 11pm
Saturday and Sunday 11am to 11pm



T.F.Ramon Lee, Minister di Labor, Cultura & Deporte



\$19.95, All You Can Eat Dinner Buffet

Served daily from 5:00 to 10 p.m. (price per person and subject to service charge & tax)

Sundown Special, receive 10% off your meal when seated by 6 p.m.

*Kids Eat Free *Kids under age 12, one per paying adult

Monday Seafood Sampler

Tuesday Bravo Italiano

Wednesday An island favorite - BBQ night

Thursday Chateaubriand, Oo-la-la

Friday International Seafood Festival

Saturday Simply Perfect - Prime Rib

LagunaRestaurantAruba.com

J.E. Irausquin Boulevard 81, Palm Beach, Radisson.com/Aruba 526.6612 or 526.6613

Radisson
ARUBA
RESORT, CASINO & SPA

Co-owner of Moby Dick's had the surprise of his life

Surprise B-Day Party for Gilbert Senchi

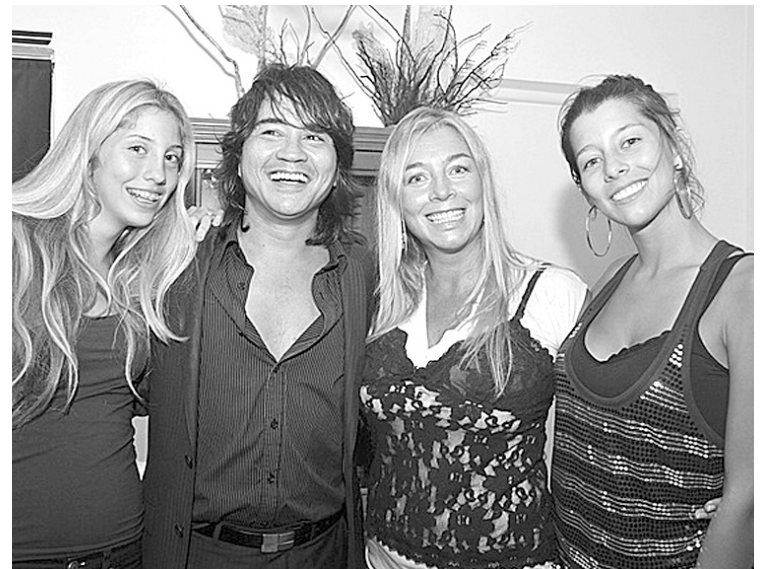


PALM BEACH — Moby Dick's Seafood Restaurant Hostesses Julieta and Florencia gave their boss Gilbert Senchi the surprise of his life. They threw a surprise birthday party on Monday

night for him at their parents Flabia & Daniel's home in Malmok. After Gilbert closed the doors to the restaurant on Monday night, they tricked him into a ride home where he was surprised by a big happy

birthday cheer from his mom Luz Marina, his partner Brian Reeve, employees and friends Mateo, Junior, Manuel, Marco, Modesto, Densay, Mino, Bruno, Roger and Mario. □

Photos by Julia Renfro



Dennis & Jane Di Mauro honored at Casa del Mar Resort



PALM BEACH - Recently at Casa del Mar vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of



goodwill title. The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at Casa del Mar, they call their home away from home. Dennis & Jane Di Mauro were honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill after visiting Aruba for 25 years. Pictured: Mr. Ricardo Croes together with Dennis & Jane and also Xiomara from Casa del Mar Resort. □



HIGHLIGHTS of Consolidated Financial Position MADURO & CURIEL'S BANK NV

Thanks again to our 1471 colleagues and friends, and to our ever-growing circle of clients, we had a very successful year in 2008. Notwithstanding the global financial crisis, our conservative banking philosophy and strong risk awareness protected our Bank from the negative consequences suffered by so many other banks worldwide. We will all face challenges in 2009, but we believe our Bank is well positioned to confront those challenges successfully.

The financial highlights in amounts (NAf) representing fifteen local and international companies

	2008	2007
Total Assets	5,425,111,000	4,947,984,000
Total Customer's Deposits	4,705,540,000	4,361,760,000
Total Loans and Advances to Customers	3,026,141,000	2,815,614,000
Capital Funds/Shareholders Equity	444,324,000	340,652,000
Extraordinary Gains	30,485,000	4,000,000
Net result after tax (after Extraordinary Gains)	144,853,000	106,836,000

The financial highlights in percentages (%)

Growth in Total Assets	9.6%
Growth in Total Customer's Deposits	7.9%
Growth in Loans and Advances to Customers	7.5%
Growth in Net Profit, incl. Extraordinary Gains	36%
Growth in Net Profit, excl. Extraordinary Gains	12%

Other key data of the MCB Group

	2008	2007
Staff	1471	1418
Offices	47	46
Bankomatiko ATMs	143	137
POS Terminals	5,735	5,351
Client accounts	534,926	509,447

INCOME STATEMENT

- The income presented in our financial statements represents the total income for all 15 companies operating onshore and international businesses based in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. International business activities are a major contributor to the Group's consolidated income.
- During 2008 and 2007, the MCB Group in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba benefited from large Extraordinary Gains from proceeds from shares issued to our Bank as part of the Initial Public Offering of VISA (2008) and MasterCard (2007).

- Including the Extraordinary Gains, the MCB Group made a profit of NAf. 144.9 million after taxes, which represents an increase of 36% over 2007. When the Extraordinary Gains are excluded, the profit increase was an excellent 12%.
- From the MCB Group's total net interest and operating income, excluding the Extraordinary Gains, 39% went to paying personnel expenses, 25% to paying other operating expenses, 8% to paying taxes, 2% to strengthening our reserve for banking risks, and healthy 26% to Retained Earnings.

BALANCE SHEET AND EQUITY

- MCB Group's consolidated total assets at the end of December 2008 totaled NAf. 5,425 million for an increase of 9.6%.
- The total of loans and advances to customers increased by 7% compared to 2007. Loans to retail clients increased by 4%. Commercial and other lending showed 9% growth during the year. The lower growth of retail loans was due to a reduction of our retail loan activities in the interests of our clients in view of the expected economic downturn.

LOANS

- For the first time, our loans and advances to clients surpassed the three billion guilder mark. We are very proud of this new milestone, which attests to the confidence we have in our clients and our communities, also in light of the changes in constitutional structure which will soon be upon us.
- In 2008, MCB extended over 5500 new personal loans, car loans and residential mortgages in Curacao alone representing over NAf. 150 million. In 2008, MCB gave 746 new business loans representing an amount of over NAf. 235 million. This included not fewer than 519 new small business loans and 87 Granito micro-finance loans.

TAXES

- The MCB Group's profit tax-obligation resulting from its operations in 2008 is NAf. 36 million; it also paid NAf. 4 million in turnover tax last year. During this same period, its employees paid wage taxes of NAf. 31 million.
- MCB in the Netherlands Antilles collected NAf. 50 million in license

fees in 2008. In Aruba, our Caribbean Mercantile Bank collected AWG. 12 million in exchange tax.

EMPLOYMENT

- MCB Group employed 1471 persons in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba at the end of 2008.
- During the year, MCB Group paid its employees total salaries and employee benefits amounting to NAf. 169 million.

COMMUNITY

- MCB Group again gave over 4000 donations representing NAf. 3 million to neighborhood, religious and sports organizations, to institutions benefiting the youth of our islands, and to relieving the often devastating effects of poverty.
- Not included in these monetary figures is the assistance given by the 257 volunteers among our staff on all islands, who assist the young and the elderly, the sick and the recovering addict, in schools and in homes for the aged.
- We dedicated this past year to building Green Awareness in several of our islands, and we are pleased to see that several other private and public institutions have followed the green leads provided by our Bank in this so very important area.

2008 was a year that the world will not easily forget, and some of the challenges that started last year will affect our economies and our lives in 2009 as well. Amongst all this turbulence, we are grateful that we were able to continue to count on the confidence and trust of our clients and our community, and of our shareholders and directors and our employees, to whom go also our warm gratitude for their support in the past year.

For the full Consolidated Financial Highlights for the financial years 2008 and 2007, the Explanatory Notes to the Consolidated Financial Highlights, and the Auditors Report thereto from KPMG Accountants BV, please write to Annual Report 2008, P.O. Box 305, Curacao, N.A. for a free copy of our 2008 Annual Report or visit our website www.mcb-bank.com.

Seafood as you've not had before

Moby Dick's for a Whale of a Good Time

PASEO HERENCIA – inside is studded with artwork, amazing glass carvings, and both floors are dominated by gigantic fountains, with water running from ceiling to floor along multicoloured lit fibre optic cables. The stairway is lined by an impressive painting which

runs along the complete wall. The menu promises to be a true seafood lovers dream. Lobsters, fresh fish fillets, shrimps, Moby Dick's has everything on the menu. There is of course a land lubbers section for those who are so disposed. The wine list is impressive to say the least, and the cocktails are definitely worth a taste. Moby Dick's is open for lunch as well. The chef has made a well rounded, extensive menu for you to choose from. You will find what you want, whatever your craving may be at that time. The staff is amongst the friendliest on the island, ever so attentive to your every whim. So long story short, for unbelievable seafood in unique surroundings, go to Moby Dick's. You'll have a whale of a time!



For More information and Reservations *Call: 586 8333*

A truly unique ambiance for both lunch and dinner

Café Rembrandt is the pefect place to relax with great food



Boasting fine dark wood finishes throughout, a patrons table and a fantastic outdoor terrace, café Rembrandt is sure to give you that comfortable and convivial feel. The staff is a solid team with abundant experience, and they all share the love for hospitality. Café Rembrandt has the ambiance of a bar where you can spend an afternoon reading the paper,

while at the same go there for a big night out. Three days a week there is live music, always at the right pace but never too loud. Café Rembrandt is open for lunch, boasting various Dutch delights, ranging from sandwiches to “bitterballen” (the original Dutch snack) to salads and warm dishes. At night you can sit down both inside and out for

a relaxed dinner. The focus is very much on the right balance between price and quality, ensuring you can eat and drink for local prices. You will discover that the service is quick, but never in a hurry, and most people will stay the entire night. We invite you to come and indulge in that unique atmosphere you will only find at Café Rembrandt.

*Open Daily 11AM till late
Sundays 4PM till late*

Located across from Amazonia in the same building as the Hard Rock. For Reservations and info call 586 4747 or ask your concierge



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DAILY 9:30-2pm \$55pp
Visit 3 Great sites with BBQ, Open Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!
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DAILY 3-6pm only \$33pp
Shorter version of am cruise
Open Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!
SUNSET SAIL
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Call 586 8107 or 592 7858



\$10 off

Valid only with direct tel. reservation - cannot be combined with other offers. Save \$10 per coupon/per couple for morning cruises. Save \$5 per coupon/per couple for afternoon cruises.

Beachside Dining in that 'just right' atmosphere

Sunset & Dinner at Matthew's tonight



Located at Casa del Mar resort in Eagle Beach, Matthew's is the brain child of Stefan Legger, who owned and opereatd Rumba Bar & Grill for 6 years. Matthew's redefines the concept of a beachside restaurant, delivering an exquisite blend of fine dining and comfort food with that 'sand on your toes' feeling. The staff is extremely friendly and demonstrate very clearly that they are there for one thing; you. Also being a very wanted venue for events and weddings, it very advisable to call and make a reservation, but if you want to just give it a go, no problem. Matthew's has a great bar which

will keep you abreast of all the action, whether it's sports on one of their 3 TV's, or what cocktails the bartenders can whip up for you. Besides breakfast, lunch and dinner, Matthew's offers all you can eat spareribs on Tuesdays, Champagne brunch on Sundays and of course their famous daily happy hours with live music at the bar.



Opening Hours
Daily from 7:30am till 10:00pm

Daily Happy Hours
Noon - 1:00pm
4:00pm - 6:00pm (with live music)
9:00pm - 10:00pm

For Reservations & Information call:
Tel: 588 7300



PAGO PAGO
Seafood & Grill Dining

Enjoy wonderful cuisine as you dine in this unique American steakhouse with a Caribbean flair.

Two diverse culinary worlds are offered: exotic Caribbean food and cowboy-size servings of USDA-certified Black Angus Beef.

Special offer:
Pay just 1/2 price for the first bottle of wine any Tuesday from 6-7:30p.m., with a three-course dinner, two persons minimum.

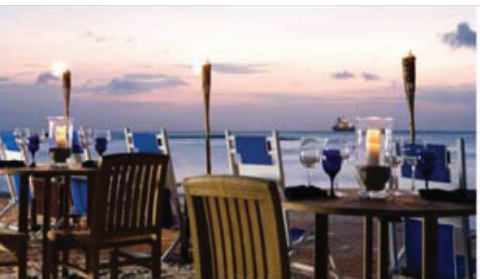


baci ristorante

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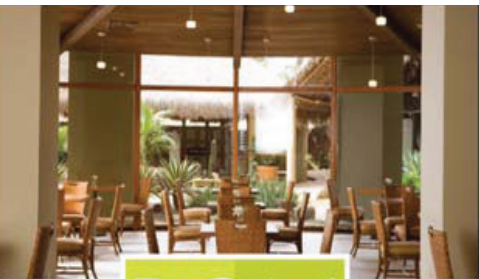


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The amount of people surpassed all expectations

The Aruban Community Contributed to Many New Ideas for Our Aruba 2025



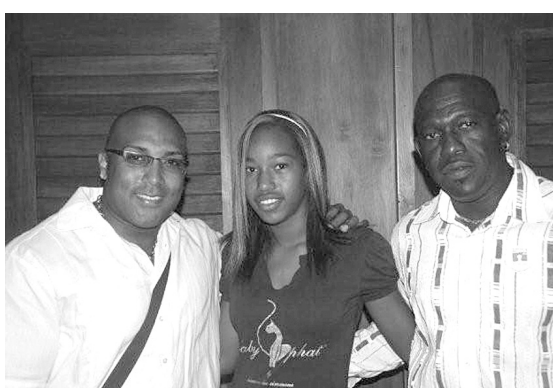
The overwhelming interest proves that our island is aspiring for sustained development ORANJESTAD - At the end of last week, took place the "Participative Showcase" which was organized by the 11 commissions working on the final report that will

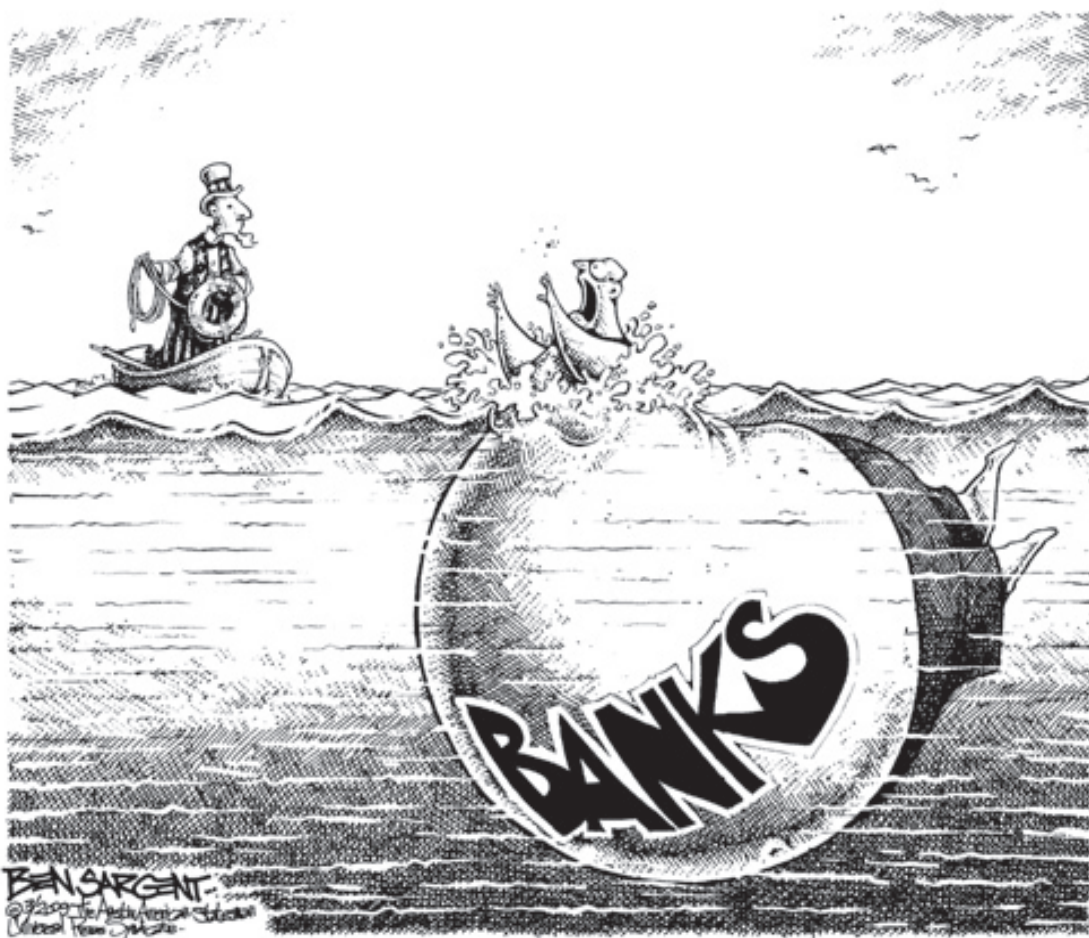
be presented the Aruban mid-year, concerning Aruba 2025. This is about an integral plan of where our Island would like to be by 2025, in all aspects and fronts, like education, environment, quality of life, government and tourism. The commission itself varies

to and from different aspects, a nation based on innovation with sustained tourism, distribution of sustainable food, energy management, an international financial epicenter, education and personal development, sports and general well-being, initiatives based on community development, environment,

government, international affairs and a social-economic structure. Friday and Saturday, the event was inaugurated with an array of special invites, and on Friday and Saturday afternoon the showcase was open to the general public.

The commission and their representatives answered questions and listened to the participating public as to what their wishes and ideas are for our Island. Pictured are the multitude of people who attended this extremely successful event. □





How Obama can step it up

By John Hughes

Provo, Utah – Less than eight weeks in office, Barack Obama has defined a course for his presidency which, if he is reelected, might take him eight years to implement.

At home, he is fulfilling his election campaign promise of change with sweeping plans for burgeoning government influence and trillion-dollar budgets.

Abroad, he is going to wind down one war, in Iraq, and expand another, in Afghanistan.

As one of the most elegant orators of our times, he has unveiled the scope of these ambitious plans with phrases that are at times Churchillian. But Winston Churchill, who promised Britons in World War II years of “blood, toil, tears, and sweat,” also infused embattled Britain with confidence in the ultimate outcome. Mr. Obama has not yet done that for Americans. There is still at large in the United States a psychology of fear and uncertainty about an economy in distress, as exemplified by reticent buyers, reluctant lenders, and a plunging stock market.

“Yes we can,” Americans are told, but they are left after clinical explanations from the Obama camp with a sneaking

suspicion that maybe we can’t.

In part this is because Obama and his lieutenants, in laudable pursuit of transparency, keep underlining the challenges and uncertainties ahead.

Vice President Biden may have taken transparency further than the president wished when he warned that after gargantuan effort by the administration, there might still be a 30 percent chance of getting it wrong. That is not a margin of error we can accept. One shudders to think what Churchill might have done to a lieutenant who uttered such a defeatist remark as the German bombs whistled down. Instead we got from Obama a tight little smile.

It is this controlled Obama coolness, this occasional air of aloofness, that I find troubling. I’d like to see a little more passion, a little more Churchill-like “we will fight on the beaches” and “never surrender” stuff.

Clearly, as the polls show, Americans have a lot of respect for Obama. But that respect seems not to have translated into confidence that he can lead them back to the promised land. Uncertainty about the ending of our troubled times is feeding the psychology of fear. I am not urging some Bush-like braggadocio; that

is not Obama’s style. But we could do with some “victory is certain” morale-boosting.

Republicans would be making a big mistake if they offer knee-jerk opposition to all that Obama suggests in healing the nation’s teetering economy. In time of national crisis – and we are actually in an international one – political parties should stand together.

This does not mean surrender. It does not mean abdication of long-held principles. It does mean compromise to achieve worthy common goals in the face of crisis.

One of President Bush’s noblest efforts during his presidency was to try to win solution to the looming problem of bankruptcy confronting Social Security. There was no political gain to be made from it. But Mr. Bush, instead of letting it confront a later administration and generation, thought it responsible to tackle it. The attempt foundered in a spineless Congress.

Much now arriving on the doorstep of this Congress from an activist White House will rouse Republican hackles. There will be sharp differences of opinion over health services. There will be philosophical differences over the expanding role of government in social engineering. □

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Is the Obama Mortgage Plan Doomed To Fail?

Christopher Hayes

The Nation -- In the short-term, I think the answer is no. As I argued in my column last week, the plan does fairly elegantly snatch some low-hanging fruit. But the problem is that there’s just not enough fruit on the low branches to really get at the problem.

In the week or so since I’ve written the column, I’ve become more convinced that it’s just not going to get the job done. Originally I had a graf in the column that said, more or less, that a useful way to think about the mortgage problem is as an interest problem and a principal problem. That is, on the one hand the rates people are paying are too high, thanks to teaser rates, ARM’s, fees, etc..., and on the other the prices of their homes are just over-valued. Alyssa Katz, explains just what this means in terms of the plan’s shortcomings:

For many borrowers, a lower payment will be all the difference between staying in one’s home and going into foreclosure -- for now. But the Obama plan is a short-term fix. It doesn’t do the one thing that would actually help homeowners in the long haul, and that is reduce the amount of principal they owe. The loan mods that these brokers are selling, and that the Obama administration is now promoting, are new and improved variations on the exotic mortgages that seduce borrowers in the first place. They charge a manageable amount now, and then hit the borrower with higher costs down the road.

...
“Loan modification success rates are ridiculously low,” agrees Debra Zimmerman, an attorney with Bet Tzedek Legal Services in Los Angeles who represents borrowers. “Until banks are ordered to reduce principal too, there will be no solution.” □



Don't drink & DRIVE



Stocks tumble as investors worry about banks, GM

By SARA LEPRO and TIM PARADIS,

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Investors fled Wall Street again, driven by worries about the nation's big banks and General Motors Corp.

Stocks ended at 12-year lows Thursday, more than wiping out the previous day's rally. Investors wrestled with more disheartening economic data, new concerns about GM and relentless uncertainty about the financial system. Short selling ahead of the government's Friday employment report exacerbated the losses, slashing 281 points from the Dow Jones industrials and sending all the major indexes down more than 4 percent.

Stocks fell in every industry, with beleaguered banks posting some of the steepest drops. Citigroup Inc., still shaky despite receiving billions in government aid, at times sank below \$1 and finished down 10 percent at \$1.02. General Motors, meanwhile, ended with a loss of 15 percent at \$1.86 as it warned of possible bankruptcy. "Citigroup going below a buck today was a little scary," said Mark LeStrange, director of sales at Source Trading.

"To say that we're cheap here and it's a good value, it sounds right, but in all reality we could go 50 percent lower," he said. "Nobody has any idea how low we can go."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index is now down 56.4 percent from its peak in October 2007, making it the second worst slide for the index since its fall of 86.2 percent from 1929-32.

The latest torrent of selling came ahead of the February Labor Department report that is likely to show hundreds of thousands of jobs were lost. Even some positive news, including some better-than-expected retail sales and factory orders, was not enough to stoke investor confidence.

The reports failed to show a significant improvement and so the market gave back a big

gain from Wednesday, said Doreen Mogavero, president of brokerage Mogavero, Lee & Co.

"The economic data is still obviously a huge worry," she said.

Short sellers also dragged on the market, analysts said. Short sellers place bets that a stock will fall, and rising short positions on a stock can intensify its decline.

"Just go out kill them. It's the easiest way to go out and make a buck," said Stephen A. Lieber, chief investment officer at Alpine Woods Capital Investors LLC in Purchase, N.Y., referring to short sellers.

The Dow fell 281.40, or 4.1 percent, to 6,594.44, its lowest close since April 1997.

Broader indicators also tumbled. The S&P 500 index dropped 32.95, or 4.6 percent, to 679.92, its lowest close since September 1996. The Nasdaq composite index fell 52.30, or 3.9 percent, to 1,301.44.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 21.49, or 5.8 percent, to 349.77.

On the New York Stock Exchange, only 235 stocks advanced while 2,887 fell. Volume came to a heavy 1.89 billion shares.

Robert Pavlik, chief market strategist at Banyan Partners LLC in New York, agreed that short selling is driving the market and that the drubbing is keeping away investors who would be attracted by beaten down stocks.

"Long-term investors would really step in if prices got too low or oversold and begin to do some bargain hunting. But with all the uncertainty that has been created, long-term investors are not stepping in," he said. "What incentive do long-term investors have stepping? Traders rule the roost."

Stocks fell initially after China deflated investors' hope that it would take new steps to stimulate its economy, but the discouraging economic data sent stocks even lower. The hope that China would unveil

more government spending to help its economy was a major factor behind the market's bounce Wednesday, which sent the Dow Jones industrials up nearly 150 points after a five-day slide.

"It's been this continuous (cycle of) hope leads to disappointment," said Todd Salamone, senior vice president of research, Schaeffer's Investment Research in Cincinnati. Since the Dow and the S&P 500 index plowed through their November lows last week, dashing hopes that the market had indeed hit a bottom, investors have been left wondering how much more the market can fall. At the same time, there is a contingent of investors with a "why sell now" mentality who are fearful of missing the next rally,



A Broker looks sadly at his monitor as he works the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange Thursday, March 5, 2009.

(AP Photo/David Karp)

Salamone said.

"A lot of people are banking we can't go much further, but if you look to the '30s, we

could indeed go a lot lower," he said, referring to Wall Street's huge losses during the Great Depression.. □



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King of Pop Jackson to play 'final curtain' concerts

by Michael Thurston
LONDON (AFP) — Pop megastar Michael Jackson is to stage a series of "final curtain" concerts in London in July, his first major shows for over a decade, he announced

US popstar Michael Jackson addresses a press conference at the O2 arena in London, to announce he will play a series of comeback concerts in London in July, his first major shows for over a decade.

(AFP/Carl de Souza)

in typically eccentric style on Thursday.

Four years after his infamous child abuse trial, the creator of "Thriller" and "Billy Jean" confirmed he will play 10 gigs at the giant O2 arena from July 8 -- and declared they will be a "final curtain."

"I'll be performing the songs my fans want to hear," the 50-year-old told hundreds of screaming fans gathered for the eagerly-awaited announcement at the O2 concert venue, which is fast earning a reputation for grand comeback gigs.

"This is the final curtain call and I'll see you in July," said Jackson, wearing sunglasses and a black jacket with silver sequins to a near-hysterical crowd waving signs reading "Michael We Love You" and "King of Pop."

Jackson's brief appearance, in which he seemed highly emotional and at a loss for words, was punctuated by salutes to the crowd, pauses, and expressions of love for his fans.

"I love you, I really do. I love you so much. From the bottom of my heart," he gushed, totally ignoring an autocue which had been set up at a podium for him to speak.

His appearance was preceded by a short video compilation of past performances of his hits, heavy on shots of weeping and screaming fans, especially when he performed his famous moonwalk

In real life Michael Jackson didn't show any of his old moves. But fans who had queued for hours to see their idol for a couple of minutes were bowled over, despite the brief appearance.

"I was expecting a bit more but... I've queued up for five hours for him to say about 10 words," said Caroline Shove, 29. But asked whether she would be buying tickets, she said: "Absolutely, it won't stop me."

It was unclear whether Jackson's reference to a "final curtain" meant there would be no concerts after the London shows. The BBC quoted the promoter behind the shows as saying he may embark on a world tour.

"These will be the last shows in London. Whether he will go on from here around the world... this will be his last tour," Randy Phillips of promoter AEG told the BBC. "All he's agreed to are the London shows at this

point."

Phillips added that Jackson will put on a "big budget, grand, highly technical, incredible show," adding: "Michael Jackson is a perfectionist so it's going to be amazing. He'll try a lot of new things."

Tickets will be on sale from 0700 GMT on March 13, AEG said on its website.

Reports suggest the "King of Pop" could make tens of millions of dollars from the residency-style string of London concerts, helping pay legal bills and debts amassed since he was acquitted in his abuse trial in 2005. If they are successful, the London concerts would be a spectacular return for the man who dominated the pop world in the 1980s but has virtually vanished from public view since his trial.

The O2, formerly the much-maligned Millennium Dome, has transformed itself into a leading concert venue, notably hosting a comeback gig by legendary rockers Led Zeppelin and a 21-night residency by Prince in 2007.

Jackson is reportedly close to completing his first new album since 2001, and has collaborated with a younger generation of stars like rapper Kanye West.

But he has been dogged by rumours of ill health and bookmakers William Hill were Wednesday offering 5-1 odds that he would not turn up on the first night.

However, the Daily Mirror tabloid reported Thursday that Jackson had passed 50 health tests set by insurers to prove he was fit enough to perform.

Jackson last performed in Britain at the 2006 World Music Awards, where he sang a few lines of "We Are The World". His last official tour was the 1996-7 HIStory World Tour, although he has played one-off gigs since.

The singer became a phenomenally successful star, first with the Jackson Five alongside his brothers and then as a solo artist.

But Jackson's career hit trouble in 1993 when a 13-year-old boy made sex abuse allegations against him and prosecutors and police launched an investigation.

A year later, Jackson reached an out-of-court settlement with the boy's family, paying out 23.3 million dollars and the criminal case was dramatically stopped. Jackson says he now regrets the payment. □

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First Lady serves lunch and smiles at soup kitchen



US First Lady Michelle Obama serves lunch to the homeless at Miriam's Kitchen, a privately funded organization in a Presbyterian church in Washington DC, which has helped the homeless for 26 years.

(AFP/Tim Sloan)

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Hundreds of down and outs at a local soup kitchen saw their luck change briefly on Thursday when they spotted First Lady Michelle Obama dishing out mushroom risotto during a surprise visit.

For about 15 minutes, Obama scooped steaming hot food

onto plates for 50 men and women inside Miriam's Kitchen, a privately funded organization in a Presbyterian church, which has helped the homeless for 26 years.

The visit -- the first of its kind to the shelter by a first lady -- is part of Obama's campaign to spotlight local organizations,

connect with the city and help those in need amid the economic crisis.

"We are facing some tough times in this country," said Obama. "There is a moment in time when each and every one of us needs a helping hand." Sporting a purple apron, Obama urged others to get involved in their communities and lend a hand, especially to those who call the cold streets home.

The first lady's office provided the soup kitchen with eight cases of fresh fruit, enough for two weeks of meals, some of which was dished out as fruit salad Thursday. There was also steamed broccoli, apple-carrot muffins and whole wheat rolls to accompany the risotto.

Pierre Carter, 61, a homeless and wheelchair-bound man, was among the gleeful crowd lining up to shake Obama's hand and thank her for the visit.

Carter has eaten breakfast at the shelter inside Western Presbyterian Church for the past three months and said the lines are getting longer.

But visits to the food kitchen help keep his spirits up during these difficult days. "You come in here and you feel like a person again," Carter said.

Robin Williams to undergo heart surgery

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Actor Robin Williams will undergo heart surgery for an aortic valve replacement, forcing him to cut short his stand-up comedy tour, his representative said on Thursday.

Williams, 57, was in the middle of his 80-city, one-man "Weapons of Self-Destruction" tour in Florida this week when he complained of shortness of breath. His representative did not disclose where or when his surgery would occur.

"I'm so touched by everyone's support and well wishes," Williams was quoted as saying in a statement. "This tour has been amazing fun and I can't wait to get back out on the road after a little tune-up."

Williams won an Oscar for his supporting role as a psychologist in the 1997 drama "Good Will Hunting." He is best known for a manic comedy routine steeped in wacky accents and improvisation. He spent two months in rehab in 2006 to combat a drinking problem.

The actor's older brother, Robert Todd Williams, died in 2007 of complications from heart surgery.



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and Hans Heijink together with the staff Romalo, Heidi, Mariella, Denise and Chef Gerben work hard keeping the restaurant **open 7 days a week from 4 pm till 11pm** for everyone to enjoy. The ambiance at the restaurant is out of this world, whether dinning inside in the relaxed air-conditioned dinning room or outside on the terrace to enjoy the tropical breeze and daily live music. Most guests come in early for the **daily fresh catches**, such as Red snapper, grouper, mahi mahi, wahoo and tuna. Check with the server to find out about the Catch of the day. The chef will be more than happy to prepare your fish the way you like it best: grilled, deep-fried,



pan-fried or the chef's choice. **Every Wednesday, seafood specials are prepared** depending on what the Fishermen bring in fresh out of the water that afternoon. These specials usually include fresh Caribbean lobster and pounds of peeled shrimps. **Fishes and More** is for everyone, from large groups, families, couples and even singles who can't shake the seafood addiction can stop in for a fix of Pina Colada Shrimp. For those who like to try something different or have had their fill of spectacular seafood, the chef prepares a wonderful array of filet



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Both parties play the blame game for economic woes...

See Page 4



Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, center, listens to Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan, left as newly nominated FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, right, looks on at a news conference after touring damage caused by Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, Thursday, March 5, 2009.

Associated Press

Obama cabinet members pledge faster Hurricane Katrina effort

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Disturbed by what they saw on a bus ride through a city still bearing Hurricane Katrina's scars, two members of President Barack Obama's cabinet pledged Thursday to speed the pace of the Gulf Coast recovery operation they inherited from the Bush administration. On their first visit to New Orleans since Obama took office, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan announced millions in new funding for post-Katrina housing initiatives and vowed to cut red tape that has kept money out of local governments' hands.

"This will not be the last time we are here," said Napolitano, who is scheduled to take a helicopter tour of Mississippi's Gulf Coast on Friday. "We're going to get this done."

The federal government's response to the 2005 storm that devastated New Orleans was a defining moment for the administration of former President George W. Bush and continued to trouble critics who considered the emergency response too little too late. Obama promised a stepped-up commitment to

the region several weeks ago, saying Gulf Coast residents struggling to rebuild have not always received the support they deserve. Katrina was blamed for more than 1,600 deaths and billions of dollars in property damage.

Napolitano and Donovan got a firsthand look at the juxtaposition of hard-fought progress and frustrating inertia in neighborhoods devastated by the August 2005 storm.

They were joined by Craig Fugate, Obama's pick to lead the Federal Emergency Management Agency, a target of many New Orleans residents' frustration since the early aftermath of the storm.

They started with a visit to a lakefront university in New Orleans where students still take classes in trailers, then met with a property owner on the outskirts of the city whose home was rebuilt by volunteers. The bus tour ended at a 9th Ward public housing development rebuilt since the storm's catastrophic levee breaches.

Along the route, they stopped to peer at homes being built as part of actor Brad Pitt's Make It Right project, but a sign that pleaded "Please Help Our Community" adorned a different house in the same neighborhood.

Continued on Next Page

Barbara Bush in good condition after surgery

By MICHAEL GRACZYK
Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Former first lady Barbara Bush was making "an excellent recovery" following 2½-hour heart surgery to replace her aortic valve and was joking with hospital staff, her lead surgeon said Thursday.

Mrs. Bush, 83, was expected to be released from the intensive care unit at The Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center on Saturday, Dr. Gerald Lawrie told reporters.

He said Mrs. Bush awakened earlier than most elderly patients do after undergoing the "very routine procedure" and started joking with the doctors. "She recognized all of us immediately and then she started cheering us up with some humorous comments as soon as we took that tube



In this Dec. 12, 2008 file photo, President George W. Bush, right, talks with his mother, former first lady Barbara Bush, left, during a commencement ceremony at Texas A&M University, in College Station, Texas.

Associated Press

out," Lawrie said, noting that she gently cajoled him for having "misled" her about post-operative pain.

Continued on Page B3



Carol deDelley, left, mother of Tim McLean, and family members including his father Tim, center, talk to media outside the Law Courts in Winnipeg, Canada, on Thursday, March 5, 2009 after the end of the trial of Vince Li, the man who stabbed and beheaded McLean on a Greyhound Bus this past summer in Manitoba. Li was found to be not criminally responsible for killing McLean.

Associated Press

Canada Judge: Attacker not criminally responsible

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — A Canadian judge ruled Thursday that a man accused of beheading and cannibalizing a fellow bus passenger is not criminally responsible due to mental illness.

Continued on Page B6



Actor Brad Pitt, center, stands with House Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi of Calif., left, and House Majority Whip James Clyburn of S.C., prior to their meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, March 5, 2009, to discuss Pitt's project for affordable, environmentally-sustainable housing for low-income residents of the Lower 9th Ward in New Orleans.

Associated Press

HURRICANE KATRINA

Continued from Front Page

"What we have seen today makes us disturbed, angry

even, to see some of the families living the way that they have," Donovan said at the last stop. "We pledge to you our partnership for a new beginning in New Orleans and across the Gulf."

Republican Gov. Bobby Jindal said he heard some encouraging words Thursday, but action will be critical now.

A consistent complaint from the city and others in Louisiana is that they're not getting all they're due for rebuilding work from FEMA and that the decision-making process for approving funding should be more transparent.

FEMA has contended

that many buildings across Louisiana suffered from years of deferred maintenance and that it's charged only with helping bring infrastructure back to its condition before the storm.

Napolitano blamed delays on FEMA staffing turnovers and confusion over FEMA's legal obligations in disbursing money. She said a new team of state and federal officials has been formed to settle disputes over funding of local rebuilding projects.

"Their sole purpose in life is to identify impediments in the decision-making process," she said, "and to provide a more effective

mechanism for resolving those disputes fairly and quickly."

St. Bernard Project co-founder Zack Rosenberg, whose nonprofit group helped rebuild the St. Bernard Parish home that the officials visited, said the area's rebuilding efforts were stymied by the Bush administration's focus on "preventing fraud" rather than "delivering services." "Residents were treated as the enemy rather than the taxpaying American citizens that they are," he said. "I'm confident that this administration will focus on progress over process." □

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BUSH

Continued from Front Page

“She continued to do very well,” he said. Her husband, former President George H.W. Bush, said “she looks well to me, and beautiful,” as he choked back tears, describing the operation as one of the most stressful days of his life. He said Mrs. Bush discouraged any of her five children, including former President George W. Bush, from visiting her during her hospital stay, and that the intensive care unit was no place for “children, even if they are 45 to 60 years old.”

Bush said he spoke to President Barack Obama and former presidents Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, and his son, George W.

Rob Saliterman, a spokesman for the younger former president Bush in Dallas, said he was “in close communication with family members in Houston, is glad Mrs. Bush is recovering quickly, and is grateful to everyone keeping her in their thoughts and prayers.”

Lawrie said Mrs. Bush was to stay in the hospital another week for observation.

The surgery was scheduled last week after Mrs. Bush experienced a shortness of breath, Lawrie said. He said doctors determined the aortic valve had started to harden.

Replacement valves are either manmade or made from living tissue from human or animal sources. Lawrie said Mrs. Bush received a valve from a pig.

When left untreated, a hardened aortic valve can result in heart failure or sudden cardiac death, the hospital said. The valve, on the left side of the heart, can harden with age and become less effective. Symptoms of aortic valve disease include shortness of breath, chest pains and dizziness.

Houston television station KRTK reported that Mrs. Bush almost didn’t want her children to know about the surgery because she didn’t think it was a big deal. She is the mother of the former president and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. The other Bush children are sons Neil and Marvin and daughter Dorothy. □

WTC owners: Ground zero brings 26K new jobs to NYC

By AMY WESTFELDT

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The delayed, over-budget rebuilding of the “ground zero” of the 2001 terror attacks may be one of the city’s few reliable sources of construction jobs and revenue over the next several years, according to a study by the World Trade Center site’s owners.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey on Thursday projected that more than 26,000 jobs and \$3.7 billion in income would be created by 2016 from the construction of office towers, a Sept. 11 memorial and transit hub at the 16-acre (6.48-hectare) site.

The agency only estimated the economic benefits generated by projects it oversees at ground zero, excluding three planned office towers under private control.

Developer Larry Silverstein said Thursday that work at those towers would generate 30,000 jobs.

The economic meltdown that crippled most developers’ plans last fall cut billions in funding for planned or in-progress construction in the city, putting thousands out of work. The New York Building Congress trade group had predicted a loss of 30,000 construction jobs in 2009 in a report last fall, before the meltdown’s effects became more pronounced.

But work is growing at the site while it disappears elsewhere in the city, officials said.

The agency said 8,210 people would be needed to design and build the 1,776-foot (541.3-meter) Freedom Tower and 8,420 others would be needed for a multibillion-dollar transit hub.

It took years of planning before work began at the site of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The agency has raised budget estimates and delayed completion dates for the tower, memorial, transit hub and other related projects. □



In this Friday, Dec. 5, 2008 file photo, construction continues at the World Trade Center site in New York. The delayed, over-budget rebuilding of ground zero may be one of the city’s few reliable sources of construction jobs and revenue over the next several years, according to a study by the World Trade Center site’s owners.

Associated Press

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Both parties play the blame game for economic woes



President Barack Obama speaks about healthcare reform in the East Room of the White House in Washington Thursday, March 5, 2009.

By **LAURIE KELLMAN**
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Sen. John McCain deployed heavy sarcasm. Fellow Republican Marsha Blackburn trotted out a chart. A group of conservative House Republicans mocked: “Deficit we inherited?” ... Spare us the false outrage.” The war between Republicans and Democrats to frame the blame for the economy erupted in earnest this week.

Republicans pushed back against President Barack Obama’s claim — echoed relentlessly by his Cabinet members and Democrats in Congress — that he didn’t cause the mess and shouldn’t be judged yet on obligating

Associated Press
taxpayers for a trillion dollars trying to fix it.

Just how long Democrats can credibly argue that they’re merely responding to — and not responsible for — a crisis created under Republican predecessors depends on which political and economic fortune tellers are doing the predicting.

“Not for too much longer,” says Stanley Renshon, a professor of political psychology at the City University of New York. “People are distracted by the sideshow only for so long, especially when the evidence is all around them. Every day brings a new cash infusion for a new industry, and the stocks drop.”

Polls show that voters are

taking a wait-and-see posture toward the blur of legislation flowing between the White House and Congress, from the bailout money to a \$410 billion spending bill that includes funding for thousands of lawmakers’ pet projects.

Obama dispatched his economic team to Capitol Hill to repeat the same message he started delivering in January when he rolled out his stimulus package, continuing through his address to Congress and the rollout of his budget last week.

“My budget does not attempt to solve every problem or address every issue,” Obama said. “It reflects the stark reality of what we’ve inherited — a trillion-dollar deficit, a financial crisis and a costly recession.”

“It’s way too soon to be start judging success or failure here,” White House budget director Peter Orszag said on CBS’ “The Early Show.” “We inherited a big mess.” This week, Republicans responded.

McCain took aim at the \$410 billion spending bill to keep the government running, specifically Obama’s willingness to accept thousands of pet projects that it would fund. Orszag, McCain noted, called the so-called earmarks “last year’s business.”

“Last year’s business? Does that mean last year’s president will sign this pork barrel bill?” McCain railed from the Senate floor. “It is the president’s business. It is the business of the president of the United States.”

Other Republicans turned to various stimulus packages, pointing out that Obama and other key Democrats voted for last year’s stimulus checks, mortgage insurance and bailouts of Wall Street and the auto industry. Those votes, they said, could well have helped add to the deficit that Democrats are characterizing as the product of a Republican administration.

“It’s not fair to blame the prior administration for everything,” Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, told Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner. Over in the House chamber, Blackburn unveiled a tricolor chart titled, “The Deficit They Didn’t Inherit.”

She then turned to the jittery stock market and employed phrasing designed to point blame back across the aisle.

“The stock market has voted on the Obama economic policies, on Pelosi-Reid economic policies, and they have obviously voted, ‘No,’” she proclaimed.

Congressional hearings also became key arenas for the battling messages.

Geithner used the inheritance

argument more than a dozen times during his appearance Tuesday before the House Ways and Means Committee. He claimed repeatedly that any deficit increase from the stimulus legislation will be short-term. Obama, after all, has pledged to halve the “inherited” deficit in his first presidential term.

Republicans engaged. Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., asked Geithner to confirm that all of the stimulus legislation since early 2008 was “supported by President Obama and his administration and your office.”

“We’re starting, before anything happens, (with) a \$1.2 trillion deficit ... built up over the last eight years, magnified by the costs of this crisis,” Geithner responded. “Built up over the last 220 years,” Nunes corrected.

True, parried Geithner, but it accelerated in recent years and culminated in the current crisis.

“A crisis we’re inheriting,” he added, “that’s going to require very substantial additional action to fix the financial system and get the economy back on track.”

Democratic lawmakers with their ears to the ground seemed to sense that they can’t keep that argument going forever.

“It’s hard to understand for a lot of families when they keep seeing things get worse and we’re still pouring money there,” said Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash.

Mused House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Charlie Rangel, D-N.Y.: “The fact that we inherited it doesn’t mean that we don’t have the responsibility to work our way out of this.” □

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Calif. Supreme Court weighs same-sex marriage ban

By LISA LEFF and PAUL ELIAS

Associated Press Writers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

As thousands of demonstrators chanted slogans and waved placards outside, California's highest court on Thursday skeptically grilled lawyers seeking to overturn the state's ban on gay marriage.

Attorneys for same-sex couples argued the public's right to change the constitution doesn't extend to depriving an unpopular minority of the right to wed.

But questions and statements from the justices indicated a wariness to override what Associated Justice Joyce Kennard called the people's "very, very broad, well-established" authority to amend the state's governing framework at the ballot box.

"What I am picking up from the oral arguments is that this court should willy-nilly disregard the will of the people," said Kennard, who just 10 months ago voted that prohibiting same-sex marriages violated the civil rights of gays. "The people established the constitution; as judges, our power is very limited."

The justices heard three hours of arguments on the gay marriage ban, known as Proposition 8, which was approved in November with 52 percent of the vote. It effectively reversed a 4-3 Supreme Court decision that legalized gay marriage 4½

months before the election.

Gay rights advocates argued the proposition is such a sweeping change to the constitution's equal protection clause that it was a constitutional revision, not just an amendment. A revision requires legislative approval before it lands on the ballot.

Chief Justice Ron George, who also ruled last year to strike down a pair of laws that limited marriage to a man and a woman, echoed Kennard's qualms about denying the public its voice.

George noted that the state constitution has been amended at least 500 times compared with the 27 times the U.S. Constitution has been altered, and said it was up to the Legislature or voters — not the court — to make the process more difficult.

"It seems what you are saying is, it is just too easy to amend the California Constitution," George told Raymond Marshall, an attorney representing the NAACP and other civil rights groups trying to overturn the ban. "Maybe the solution has to be a political one."

Minutes into Thursday's proceedings, the justices peppered a lawyer representing unwed same sex couples with tough questions over how the 14 words of Proposition 8 represent a denial of fundamental rights when same-sex couples still have the legal benefits of marriage through domestic partnerships.

"Is it your argument in this proceeding that the passage of Proposition 8 also took away in addition to the label of marriage, the core of substantive rights of marriage this court outlined in its decision last year?" asked Kennard.

"One of the core constitutional rights is to be treated with equality, dignity and respect," replied Shannon Minter, legal director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

Supporters of the gay marriage ban, represented by former Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth Starr, said it would be a reversal of the Supreme Court's own precedents for the court to overturn the results of a fair election.

"Under our theory the people



are sovereign and they can do very unwise things that tug at the equality principle," Starr said.

He also argued that California voters have an "inalienable right" to amend the constitution and that taking away rights through the initiative process is not a revision that alters the structure of government.

"There must be far-reaching change in the basic structure of government," said Starr.

The court also heard arguments on how the gay marriage ban affects the 18,000 marriages of same-sex couples performed before it passed. Many of the justices appeared skeptical that Proposition 8 could be applied retroactively.

George suggested the validity

of the earlier marriages was purposely omitted from the ballot initiative as a campaign strategy to increase the likelihood of its passage.

Starr, dean of Pepperdine law school, said the intent of Proposition 8 was to prevent the state from recognizing any same-sex marriages, noting that it was drafted before the high court legalized gay marriage on May 15.

The Supreme Court's seven justices have 90 days after the oral arguments in which to issue a ruling. The crowd outside the court grew steadily throughout the hearing, with many watching the proceedings on a giant television screen erected across the street in front of City Hall.

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In this Monday, Sept. 27, 2004 file photo, women sit under the shade of a large tree on a wadi (dry riverbed) at a makeshift camp for internally displaced people near Seleah village, West Darfur, Sudan. The International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant Wednesday, March 4, 2009 for Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur.

CRIMINALLY RESPONSIBLE

Continued from Front Page

The decision means Chinese immigrant Vince Li will be treated in a mental institution instead of going to prison. The family of victim Tim McLean dismissed the trial as a "rubber stamp" that allows Li to get away with

murder.

"A crime was still committed here, a murder still occurred," said Carol deDelley, McLean's mother. "There was nobody else on that bus holding a knife, slicing up my child."

The judge said Li should not be held criminally accountable for stabbing

McLean dozens of times last July and dismembering his body while horrified passengers fled.

Justice John Scurfield said Li's attack was "grotesque" and "barbaric" but "strongly suggestive of a mental disorder."

Scurfield added: "He did not appreciate the actions

he committed were morally wrong. He believed he was acting in self-defense and that he had been commanded by God to do so."

Both the prosecution and the defense argued Li can't be held responsible because Li was suffering from schizophrenia and believed God wanted him to kill McLean because the young man was a force of evil. He will be institutionalized without a criminal record and will be reassessed every year by a mental health review board to determine if he is fit for release into the community.

Li's trial barely lasted two days and only heard from two witnesses, both psychiatrists, who testified he is mentally ill.

That Li killed the 22-year-old carnival worker was never in question at the trial. Li has admitted he killed McLean but pleaded not guilty.

Witnesses said Li attacked McLean unprovoked as their Greyhound bus traveled at night along a desolate stretch of the Trans-Canada Highway. After his capture, Li apologized and pleaded with police to kill him.

McLean's family is vowing to turn their attention to fighting the law that allows people who are found not criminally responsible to be released into the community once they are deemed well, without serving a minimum sentence in jail.

Government prosecutor Joyce Dalmyn said the family understood what she had to do.

"The evidence was so overwhelming that he was not criminally responsible. I absolutely had an obligation to bring that to the court's attention and the family understands and respects that," Dalmyn said.

Dalmyn said they felt obligated to have a trial to make sure the family and the public had the right to hear the evidence and the reason for the judge's decision.

Li's lawyer, Alan Libman, said Li will get help and the public can be assured the review board will take into consideration the protection of the public.

"Mr. Li advised me after court that he's going to work with his treatment team because it's his desire to get better," Libman said.

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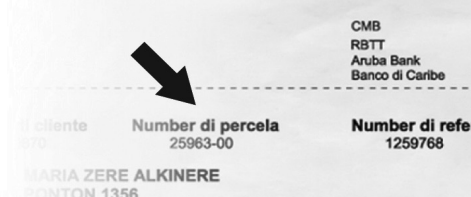


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Britain re-establishing contact with Hezbollah

LONDON (AP) — Britain is re-establishing contact with the militant group Hezbollah following the formation of a unity government in Lebanon, the British government said Thursday.

The Foreign Office said that it has established contact with the group's political wing but still has no contact with its military wing.

Britain ceased contact with members of Hezbollah in 2005 and listed the military wing as a proscribed terrorist organization last year.

The Foreign Office said that it had reconsidered its position following positive developments in Lebanon. "Our objective with Hezbollah remains to encourage them to move away from violence and play a constructive, democratic and peaceful role in Lebanese politics, in line with a range of UN Security Council Resolutions," the ministry said.

The ministry said Britain's ambassador attended a meeting in January in Beirut

alongside a Hezbollah lawmaker, and that the government was seeking to build relations with other legislators attached to the group.

Israel and Hezbollah fought a brutal 34-day war in the region in 2006. More than 1,200 people in Lebanon — most of them civilians — and 159 in Israel died in the conflict.

Hezbollah has a large rocket arsenal but is not believed to have used it against Israel since the 2006 war. It has denied involvement in recent rocket attacks on Israel.

After showing its military strength against Israel in 2006 and then again in May 2008 against its Lebanese rivals — when it took control of large parts of Beirut by force — Hezbollah became a partner in Lebanon's government with veto power over decisions.

Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor said Hezbollah has always been a terror group.

"This organization

Hezbollah lawmaker Mohammed Raad, left, speaks with Christian lawmaker Michel Murr, right, during the fifth session of the national dialogue at the Presidential Palace in Baabda, east of Beirut, Lebanon, Monday, March 2, 2009. Leaders of political factions met at the presidential palace for the talks headed by President Michel Suleiman, to discuss a national defense strategy.

Associated Press

represents serious danger to any reasonable or peaceful political arrangement in the region and those who want to promote peace and compromise would be well advised to keep themselves at a safe distance from these dishonorable people," he said. □



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The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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At Papillon Restaurant in The Village Henri Charrière would have had the time of his life



PALM BEACH - Henri Charrière, one of the world's most famous prisoners, would surely have had the time of his life at Papillon Restaurant in The Village, across from the Radisson Resort. Nicknamed Papillon because of the butterfly tattoo on his chest, the Frenchman was the first convict to escape from Devil's Island, something that nobody had ever done before. Charrière's thrilling, gripping autobiography has been the concept behind Papillon Restaurant. The décor, the decorations and especially the restrooms wink

at the thirteen terrible years Papillon spent in prison in French Guyana.

Papillon Restaurant's menu reflects the Frenchman's arduous journey to freedom: classic French dishes have been dusted with daring Caribbean flair and are a culinary journey for your taste buds. The spacious outside terrace is perfect for casual fine dining; the

iron bars, flecks of rust and stains on the walls make one very glad not to be in Papillon's shoes in the 1940's! Charrière would undoubtedly have loved 'his' place on Aruba: this is luxury living for anyone!

Papillon's opening hours are from 5 pm until midnight. The restaurant's daily specials will be explained by the staff. For reservations, please call 5865400.



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PALM BEACH - There is only one Bugaloe on Aruba: it is the hottest place to be cool and the coolest place to be hot. Friends and fun are the main ingredients at the beach bar, but great food, drinks and music get a good second place. The sunsets, the breeze and the turquoise ocean are right at the top as well, of course. Bugaloe is located on De Palm Pier on the beach between the RIU Palace and the Radisson Resort at the Hi-Rise strip: an easy walk from all the major hotels.

People from all over the world get together at Bugaloe: they have a few drinks,

a bite to eat, they dance and sway and make new friends. If you have gotten curious here and now, check out the website www.bugaloe.com and you will see at one glance what we are talking about. No words will be needed anymore. Surf to the website for the Bugaloe Event Calendar or leave a note in the Guestbook.

Bugaloe's daily Happy Hours are considered the starting signal for an evening of partying on the island. Locals mingle with visitors and raise their glasses. When you get hungry, order a scrumptious burger, a gourmet pizza, tasty wings or a salad and party on. The night is young, the world is going crazy and you are right in the middle of a super happening. What's not to like? A twice-a-month live breakfast radio show on Fri-

day mornings with a spectacular breakfast buffet will keep you entertained as well.

A hot tip: Bugaloe Beach Bar puts on live bands on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Joyride, Lotus (YouTube keywords: lotus, bugaloe) and Marisela & Aquarius (YouTube keywords: marisela, confidential, 2008) are playing the stars from the sky. These bands are drawing the crowds, so be there or be square! On those nights the young as well as the young-at-heart are having the time of their lives. Photos of Bugaloe's happy times can be viewed at www.bugaloe.com. Don't forget to put your own movie of you and your friends having a whale of a time at Bugaloe on the web and enjoy being famous, crazy and hilarious. So upload, upload! We are looking forward to seeing you on YouTube or live in action.





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Aruba TODAY



In this June 24, 2006 file photo, Jim Scherr, chief executive of the U.S. Olympic Committee, delivers the keynote address at the U.S. Olympic Assembly held at the Torrey Pines Hilton, in San Diego.

Associated Press

USOC chief offers surprising resignation

By EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

DENVER (AP) — Jim Scherr stepped down as the chief executive officer of the U.S. Olympic Committee, a surprising resignation with the federation facing financial difficulties and in the midst of trying to bring the 2016 Olympics to Chicago.

Scherr announced his decision on Thursday.

His last day will be March 31, and he will be replaced on an interim basis by Stephanie Streeter, a member of the USOC board of directors.

On Tuesday, Scherr announced the USOC would trim up to 15 percent of its staff as part of an effort to pare \$7.1 million from the 2009 budget and stay ahead of the bad

economy. During a news conference that day in Washington, he spoke about the future and gave no signs of his pending resignation.

He will leave nearly four years after taking over at the USOC, where he helped the federation streamline a bulky governing structure and regain a reputation that was sullied in the wake of the Salt Lake City Olympics bid scandal.

The timing was bizarre. The USOC was moving into the final stages of helping with the bid to bring the 2016 Olympics to Chicago.

The SportAccord, an international gathering of sports dignitaries, including those from the International Olympic Committee, was set for later this month in Denver with all four finalists scheduled

to present their bids for the games.

One of the USOC's biggest challenges over the past few years has been to establish a sense of continuity in its organization, so overseas officials will feel more comfortable with leaders of the richest and largest Olympic federation in the world.

Scherr was, of course, a key part of that leadership team, but he'll soon be leaving.

"Jim guided our organization through a period of unprecedented challenge and change, and did so with an unwavering commitment to enabling America's athletes to succeed on the field of play," USOC chairman Larry Probst said in the news release. □



Robert Allenby reacts to his approach shot on the ninth hole during the first round of the Honda Classic golf tournament in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., Thursday, March 5, 2009.

Associated Press

Allenby leads, Compton contending at Honda

By TIM REYNOLDS

AP Sports Writer

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida (AP) — Robert Allenby shot a 4-under 66 to take a one-shot lead in the opening round of the Honda Classic, where the wind blew flags straight and the only solace for players was receptive greens on Thursday.

Continued on page B12

Cowboys release star WR Terrell Owens

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Wide receiver Terrell Owens was released by the Dallas Cowboys on Thursday, ending a three-year run that produced as many big headlines as big plays.

Owens caught more touchdown passes than any NFL receiver over the last three years and was a big part of Tony Romo's emergence from an unknown backup to a starlet-dating Pro Bowl quarterback with a \$67 million contract.

Yet the Cowboys never won a playoff game with Owens, and didn't even make the playoffs last season. Months after Dallas' late-season collapse, owner Jerry Jones decided a new attitude was needed.

"This is a decision that was made based upon consideration for an entire team," Jones said in a statement. "We will move on now with a new team — a new attitude — and into a new stadium."

Jones had indicated in recent weeks that Owens wasn't going anywhere and firmly said the idea of locker-room problems were "a figment of the result. You didn't hear about those things when we were winning."



Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Terrell Owens (81) stands on the sidelines at the end of an NFL football game against Philadelphia Eagles in this Dec. 28, 2008 file photo, in Philadelphia. Terrell Owens' days in Dallas are done, according to ESPN. ESPN cited anonymous sources Wednesday night March 4, 2009 in saying that the Cowboys have decided to cut the receiver, ridding them of a big locker-room distraction but also absorbing a big hit on their salary cap.

Associated Press

Dallas also released safety Roy Williams on Thursday. Despite his reputation as a hard-hitter, teams never

hesitated throwing his way in recent years because he struggled in coverage. After Owens, Williams likely was

the second divisive figure among Cowboys fans — especially after Dallas already got rid of Adam "Pacman" Jones and Tank Johnson.

Cutting Owens and Williams will cost the Cowboys about \$14 million against the salary cap.

There's no telling how much more Dallas will lose in jersey sales and other publicity Owens generated.

Owens learned he was being cut late Wednesday and sent text messages to his friends. Cowboys receiver Sam Hurd said Owens' reaction was "more shock than anger."

"He didn't give me an explanation. He just said, 'Wow,'" Hurd said Thursday. "I really didn't believe that he seen that coming. ... He said it's tough, but it's a business." What's next for TO?

It remains to be seen what kind of market there is for a 35-year-old with a proven track record — good and bad. Owens was among the NFL's career leaders in catches, yards and touchdowns. Over the last three years, his 38 touchdowns are one more than Randy Moss and he's among the league's best in catches, yards, yards per catch and yards per game. □

Alex Rodriguez has torn labrum in hip

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — Alex Rodriguez will attempt to play this season with an injured right hip, hoping to avoid surgery and a four-month rehabilitation period. A cyst in the hip was drained on Wednesday, and the New York Yankees third baseman will skip playing for the Dominican Republic in the World Baseball Classic. Still, he has a torn labrum that might need an operation. “There’s two courses of action concerning what he has,” Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said on Thursday. “There is treat it conservatively, which would imply rest, exercise and treatment. Or you can treat it aggressively, which is by surgery. At this point in time, we are going to go the conservative route.”

The diagnosis was yet another jolt to Rodriguez during a tumult-filled past month in which the three-time MVP admitted using banned drugs from 2001-03 while with Texas.

“He’s been through a lot, and you probably can go through the last year that he’s been through a lot,” Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. “He’s been pretty good in staying focused in what he has to do.”

The thing about Alex, we all know how hard he works. He’s able to do a lot of things because of his work ethic, and you hope that carries him through this year as well.”

Girardi was concerned Rodriguez could start the Major League Baseball season in April and then have to be shut down.

Earlier, ESPNdeportes.com reported that Rodriguez’s brother, Joe Dunand, said the slugger was going to have surgery, with a projected 10-week recovery time.

Cashman said Rodriguez’s preference was to try rest and treatment first, but that offseason surgery might be an option.

He added the team hopes the cyst was the cause of stiffness that had bothered the 12-time MLB All-Star. Rodriguez was to undergo additional tests in

Colorado on Friday.

Dominican Republic general manager Stan Javier spoke with Rodriguez on Thursday.

“The only concern I have right now is I hope he’s OK,” Javier said.

“It’s too bad it has happened, but that’s baseball and that’s life. He told me he might have surgery Sunday or Monday. He said he’s going to meet us in Miami to be with the team.”

The injury potentially leaves a huge hole in the lineup for the Yankees, trying to rebound after missing the playoffs last season following 13 consecutive appearances.

Last year, Rodriguez was sidelined from April 28 to May 20 because of a strained right quadriceps — his fifth career trip to the disabled list. An MRI exam at that time

showed what Cashman called an “irregularity” in the right hip. His 138 games last season were his fewest since 1999.

Rodriguez’s hip was fine until experiencing stiffness during spring training this year.

If Rodriguez is sidelined, New York would have to replace its third baseman and cleanup hitter, behind new first baseman Mark Teixeira.

The leading internal candidate to take over at third would be Cody Ransom, a 33-year-old who has a .251 average and 24 RBIs in 183 at-bats over six major league seasons.

Since joining the Yankees before the 2004 season, Rodriguez has averaged 42 homers and 123 RBIs to go along with a .303 batting average.

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Dominican Republic’s Alex Rodriguez applauds his team’s six-run rally during the fifth inning of an exhibition spring baseball game against the Florida Marlins Tuesday, March 3, 2009, in Jupiter, Fla. The Dominican Republic won, 10-1.

Associated Press

salary this season, Rodriguez your club without Alex,” had been looking forward to Girardi said. “Alex hasn’t had the April 16 opener at the \$1.5 any pain. Shocked. I think billion new Yankee Stadium. that’s a pretty good way to “It’s worrisome thinking about describe it.” □

NHL Roundup

Conklin stops 25 shots, lifting Red Wings to win



Detroit Red Wings goalie Ty Conklin, front left, and defenseman Jonathan Ericsson, back left, of Sweden, drive Colorado Avalanche center Ben Guite into the boards while pursuing a loose puck in the first period of an NHL hockey game in Denver on Wednesday, March 4, 2009.

Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — The Detroit Red Wings took the overall NHL lead with a 3-2 win over the struggling Colorado Avalanche on Wednesday.

The win moved the defending Stanley Cup champions to 94 points, one ahead of the Boston Bruins and San Jose Sharks, both to play on Thursday.

Ty Conklin made 25 saves, filling in for regular goalie Marian Hossa, who had a sore neck and knee after slamming into the boards in St. Louis on Tuesday.

Valtteri Filppula, Johan Franzen and Kris Draper scored for Detroit. The Red Wings played without goal leader Marian Hossa, sidelined by a sore neck and knee.

Colorado, last in the Western Conference, dropped its sixth straight game, matching the longest skid since the team relocated to Denver in 1995-96. The last time the Avalanche dropped six in a row was late in the 1998 season when they were on their way to wrapping up a division title.

John-Michael Liles and Milan Hejduk scored for Colorado.

The Avalanche pulled their goalie in the last minute, but couldn’t tie the game as Conklin made a flurry of late saves.

Sabres 5, Candiens 1

In Buffalo, New York, Buffalo moved within two points of the provisional last playoff spot in the Eastern Conference by cruising past Montreal.

Goalie Patrick Lalime stopped the first 36 shots he faced and benefited from Buffalo’s highest score for three weeks. □

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NBA Roundup**Cavaliers become first team into playoffs**

Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James flips up a shot during the fourth quarter against the Milwaukee Bucks in an NBA basketball game Wednesday, March 4, 2009, in Cleveland. James scored 23 points to lead Cleveland to a 91-73 win.

Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Cleveland Cavaliers became the first team to clinch a spot in the NBA playoffs by beating the Milwaukee Bucks 91-73 on Wednesday.

Cleveland wrapped up their fourth straight postseason berth with more than a month left in the regular season. The Cavs moved 36 games over .500 for the first time this season and improved their league-best record at home to 27-1.

LeBron James scored 23 points and Delonte West had 13 and a career-high eight steals.

Jazz 101, Rockets 94

HONDA

Continued from Page B10

He had a tap-in on the par-4 ninth — his final hole — to break away from what was an eight-way tie for the lead.

Allenby missed a 2½-footer on the previous hole, so he left nothing to chance on the last, hitting a 6-iron to 6 inches.

"I just sort of played within myself, took one or two clubs more when it was into the wind, tried not to force it and just tried to feel my way around the golf course," said Allenby, who lives just a couple miles (kilometers) from PGA National and finished tied for fourth and tied for fifth in the last two years there.

By the time darkness suspended play, six players — Charlie Wi, Jeff Overton, Angel Cabrera, Stewart Cink, Will Mackenzie and Sergio Garcia — all were one shot behind Allenby.

Defending champion Ernie Els shot 73, as did Camilo Villegas, Davis Love III and Rocco Mediate, among others.

But the big surprise was Erik Compton, the local who underwent heart-transplant surgery for the second time last year.

He made a triple-bogey on his second hole, which would have deflated some. Compton, however, said it was the kickstart he needed.

With his nearly 2-week-old newborn getting pushed along in a stroller, Compton birdied three straight holes after making the turn and got to 1 under when play was stopped in his second U.S. PGA Tour event since the lifesaving procedure.

He'll return early Friday, trying to get up and down from 30 yards at the par-4 8th. □

In Salt Lake City, Utah won its ninth straight game by downing Houston, moving within a game of the Northwest Division lead.

Carlos Boozer had 20 points and 17 rebounds in his best game since his return from a three-month absence.

The Rockets crept within three points in the final minute before the Jazz sealed it and recorded their 10th straight home win.

Mavericks 107, Spurs 102
In Dallas, Josh Howard scored 29 points, including a key layup in the final minute, as Dallas edged Texas rival San Antonio.

Jason Kidd hit a clutch 3-pointer with 31 seconds left to secure the win and move the Mavericks within 3-1/2 games of the Spurs, who sit atop the Southwest Division.

Celtics 115, Nets 111
In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Paul Pierce scored 31 points and hit a game-winning 17-footer with 20 seconds left, leading Boston over New Jersey.

The Celtics shot 61.2 percent from the field in beating their Atlantic Division rival for the third time this season.

Heat 135, Suns 129
In Miami, Dwyane Wade scored 35 points and tied his career high with 16 assists as Miami prevailed in an entertaining game against Phoenix.

Reserves Michael Beasley and Daequan Cook combined to score 55 points, and the Heat

spoiled Shaquille O'Neal's return to face one of his former teams.

Beasley scored 28 points — the most by a Heat player besides Wade this season — and nine rebounds. Cook added 27 points and Miami recorded the second-highest point total in franchise history.

O'Neal finished with 22 points and eight rebounds before fouling out late.

Trail Blazers 107, Pacers 105
In Portland, Oregon, Portland notched a 10th successive home win by pipping Indiana.

Brandon Roy scored 28 points, including a pair of game-clinching free throws with 1.7 seconds left.

The Blazers rallied after trailing by 14 points in the second half.

The result also ended the Pacers run of nine consecutive wins over Portland.

Knicks 109, Hawks 105
In New York, the hosts won for the first time in four games, defeating Atlanta.

Larry Hughes scored 23 points for the Knicks, continuing his turnaround from a rocky start with his new team.

New York got March off to a good start after a 3-10 February that damaged their hopes of making the playoffs. The Knicks are two games behind Milwaukee and Chicago for the provisional eighth Eastern Conference

playoff berth.

Bulls 110, Warriors 88
In Chicago, John Salmons had 23 points and seven rebounds to lead Chicago over Golden State.

Joakim Noah added 14 points and 17 rebounds for the Bulls, who pulled away early in the fourth quarter.

Grizzlies 118, Clippers 95
In Los Angeles, Memphis ended a run of eight losses with a comfortable win over Los Angeles.

Rudy Gay scored 20 of his season-high 35 points in the third quarter to set up the win — only the fourth road victory of the season for the Grizzlies.

The Clippers lost their fourth straight and have now lost 30 games by double-digit margins — the most in the league and one more than Memphis.

Thunder 88, Wizards 83
In Oklahoma City, the home team brought up its first three-game winning streak, defeating Washington.

Thabo Sefolosha made a reverse layup with 1:47 to play, putting Oklahoma City up 84-81. A jumper by Russell Westbrook with 33 seconds remaining stretched the lead to five, and two late free throws made sure.

Sefolosha had 15 points and Westbrook 12 with eight assists for the Thunder.

Washington didn't score in the final 2-1/2 minutes. □

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La contaminación agrava las enfermedades que matan a 20 personas al día en Sao Paulo

Río de Janeiro (EFE) - La contaminación provocada por las emisiones de vehículos es el principal agravante de enfermedades que causan la muerte a 20 personas cada día en Sao Paulo, la mayor ciudad brasileña, según un estudio universitario citado ayer por el diario Folha de Sao Paulo. Hace cinco años el promedio de muertes por las mismas enfermedades era de 12 por día en Sao Paulo, una ciudad con cerca de 19,6 millones de habitantes en su región metropolitana.

De acuerdo con la investigación del Laboratorio de Contaminación Atmosférica de la Universidad de Sao Paulo (USP), el número de muertes de personas con más de 40 años por enfermedades cardiorrespiratorias en la mayor ciudad suramericana saltó desde 4.380 en 2004 hasta 7.187 en 2008.

Los investigadores calculan



que las emisiones tóxicas de los automóviles multiplican por cuatro el riesgo de muerte en esta ciudad por enfermedades como infarto, neumonía, asma, accidente vascular cerebral o

cáncer de pulmón.

Según los cálculos de los investigadores, que utilizaron parámetros de la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS), la actual tasa de riesgo de un

habitante de Sao Paulo de morir por alguna enfermedad cardiorrespiratoria es del 10,9 por ciento.

Esa tasa caería hasta apenas el 2,4 por ciento si la ciudad

consiguiese reducir a cero las emisiones contaminantes de los automóviles.

Sin embargo, el número de vehículos que circulan en Sao Paulo saltó desde 5,6 millones en 2004 hasta 6,3 millones en 2008. Según el estudio citado por el diario, el aire de Sao Paulo tiene cerca de 28,1 microgramos de partículas contaminantes por metro cúbico, un promedio casi tres veces superior al límite recomendado por la OMS (10 miligramos por metro cúbico de aire).

Igualmente es muy superior al de otras ciudades brasileñas, como Río de Janeiro (19 miligramos de partículas por metro cúbico), Belo Horizonte (16,5), Curitiba (16,5), Porto Alegre (16,3) y Recife (11,1). La investigación calcula que la contaminación es la causante de cerca de 13.100 hospitalizaciones al año en Sao Paulo. □

Dominicana prohíbe cacería aves y mamíferos

SANTO DOMINGO (AP) - El gobierno dominicano prohibió cualquier actividad de caza para proteger a las numerosas especies que están en peligro de extinción.

“Sólo permitiremos que se capturen aquellos animales de la vida silvestre con fines de investigación, en proyectos debidamente aprobados por nosotros”, dijo el jueves en rueda de prensa el ministro de Medio Ambiente, Jaime David Fernández Mirabal. “Las sanciones se empezarán a aplicar a partir de este momento. Desde ya está prohibida todo tipo de cacería”, señaló.

La resolución del gobierno prohíbe la captura, muerte, hostigamiento y apresamiento de fauna silvestre, recolección de huevos, nidos, partes y sus derivados.

En un reciente informe de la Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (UICN), se indica que de 30 especies que existen en República Dominicana, 13 están en peligro de extinción.

Según el documento, entre las especies en peligro figuran el gavilán, la cúa, el pico cruzado, el cuervo, el chirrí, el cao, la cotorra y el perico. El país está poblado por 296 especies de aves.

En niveles de vulnerabilidad también se encuentran la jutía, el selenodonte, la lechuga cara ceniza, la culebrita verde y el caracol terrestre.

Las razones de su extinción están ligadas al comercio ilegal, la caza deportiva o por superstición, como es el caso del gavilán, que se encuentra en peligro crítico por la falsa idea del campesino de que destruyen sus crianzas, indicó UICN.

Los delitos por medio ambiente incluyen multas y cárcel, según lo determine el tribunal. □

Paraguay prohíbe por 5 años pesca comercial del dorado

ASUNCION (AP) - Paraguay prohibió por cinco años la pesca comercial en los ríos Paraguay y Paraná del pez conocido como dorado, por encontrarse en vías de extinción.

El nombre científico del pez es salminus maxillous y popularmente los pescadores lo califican como “Tigre” por la bravura con que intenta librarse de la captura.

Un adulto de ocho años de edad puede llegar a pesar 35 kilos.

El ministro del Ambiente, José Luis Casaccia, confirmó el jueves que la Corte Suprema de Justicia declaró legal y vigente una ley sancionada en 2007 prohibiendo la pesca de la especie y que fuera anulada temporalmente tras un pedido de la Federación de Pescadores del Paraguay ante un juzgado de primera instancia.

“Los individuos que fuesen descubiertos vendiendo dorado podrían ir por cinco años a la cárcel”, advirtió Casaccia, añadiendo que el pez está en vías de extinción paulatina.

Agregó que las personas pobres que viven en la ribera de los ríos Paraná y Paraguay están autorizados a capturarlo pero sólo para consumo familiar y siempre que tenga 75 centímetros de largo, como mínimo.

También está permitida la pesca deportiva pero con medidas restrictivas como 75 centímetros y los competidores no deben capturar más de tres piezas.

Al final del concurso, los pescados deben ser donados a hospitales públicos.

Casaccia describió al dorado como de color amarillo-naranja con vientre plateado, cuerpo largo, robusto y cubierto de escamas pequeñas, cabeza grande, fuerte y cónica con una boca amplia con poderosos dientes cónicos. □

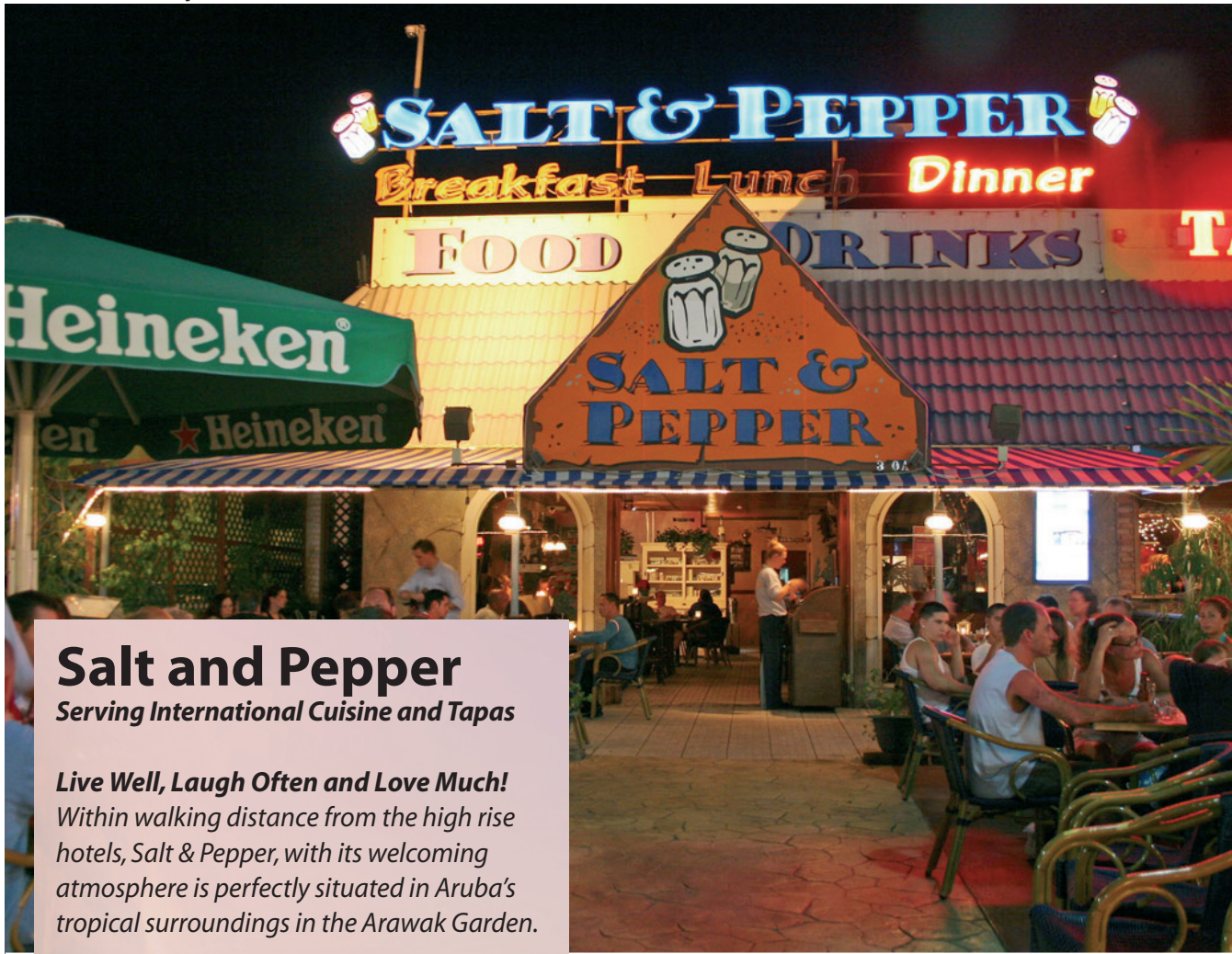
Uribe con popularidad de 69%

BOGOTA (AP) - La popularidad del presidente Alvaro Uribe cayó un punto y se ubicó en 69%, por debajo de su nivel histórico, aunque todavía una mayoría de entrevistados dijo que votaría por su reelección, reveló una encuesta publicada el jueves en el diario El Tiempo.

El sondeo de la firma Gallup dijo que la opinión favorable hacia Uribe era de 69% en febrero, comparado con 70% de diciembre, fecha del sondeo anterior de la encuestadora.

El nivel de aprobación de la gestión del mandatario se mantuvo en 74% de diciembre a febrero, aseguró la firma, que entrevistó a 1.000 personas en las cuatro mayores ciudades del país del 23 al 28 de febrero.

La encuesta tuvo un margen de error de 3%. El descenso en la popularidad del presidente se puede atribuir a varios factores, pero principalmente a que la mala situación de la economía, con crecimiento del desempleo, “se siente, comienza a apretar en los hogares”, indicó en entrevista telefónica Jorge Londoño, gerente de Gallup. □



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